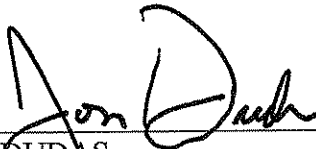


Patent Cooperation Treaty Update

The International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization has informed the United States Patent and Trademark Office that an increased dollar amount has been established for the search fee required by the European Patent Office with effect from April 1, 2006. The dollar amount of the search fee required by the European Patent Office when acting as International Searching Authority will be \$1,925 beginning April 1, 2006.

3/17/06
Date



JON W. OUDAS
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office